

Tree Committee Minutes
Monday May 2, 2016 4:00PM Town Library

Present: Jim Neureuther, Chairman & Treasurer; Paula Byrdy, Nick DeCandia, Kacy Westwood, and Nancy Sommer, prospective member

- The Committee was called to order at 4:06 by the chairman
- The minutes of the Feb 22, 2016 meeting were passed unanimously
- Kacy Westwood was elected Secretary
- The Treasurer reported that there is no change in our funds since the Feb 22 Meeting:
 - Revolving Account Balance \$5,429.75.
 - FY16 Account 100 balance is \$0. (Town FY16 \$550 budget used up)
 - Request made for planned increase in Town FY17 budget to \$750.
 - Donation/Expense item update
- For the 11th year we have been named a Tree City USA town. There are two remaining signs: One will be placed on Brodie Mt. Road, and the other at the north entrance to town on Route 8.
- Jim & Nick will check on the school arboretum prior to the Arbor Day Celebration.
- The Chairman reported that the following tree maintenance/planting should be addressed this year:
 - Arboretum trees should be pruned/weeded/mulched prior to Arbor Day at school. Jim & Nick will check the arboretum prior to that celebration, and contact others if work is needed.
 - Tom Zetterstrom (Elm Watch) pruned Princeton Elm at St Luke Stone church on April 20. He says it is time for us to contract a structural pruning for the Veterans Memorial Elm at Town Hall. It is overdue for a pruning. Kacy will contact Chris Wheeler, a local arborist, to see if he will do that if/when the Committee requests she do so.
 - King Elmer needs DED inoculation in June. Jim contact Race Mt (Ron Yaple)
 - A date for a Tree Walk at Laston Park was not set
 - Robert Fraker has stated intention to donate a Redbud tree to Laston Park for 2016. In memory of 50th anniversary of mother's death from Robert & brother
 - Tree Plaques for Laston Park trees & replacement plaques for those that are damaged will be ordered after the Fraker's tree is planted. Committee members selected the first of three possible formats for the one to use: Tree type (English and Latin), Donated by or In Memory Of, then other two lines.
 - Town Holiday Tree. Mary Reilly (Historical Commission) noted that someone in town wanted to plant a tree in memorial park for future use as a town holiday tree. St Luke church has already planted a tree to be used as a Christmas Tree. Memorial park may not be suitable location due to shade conditions, police station septic field and concern that pruning is needed for shaping and decades down the road, the tree would be too big for the limited space. The Committee voted not to address this issue unless it is brought before us.
- Arbor Day May 13, 2016 Plans
 - Schedule at school will follow the template from 2015. Anna Mello's class is 29 kids. Paul Sieloff not available to read proclamation (has been signed by Paul). The school Principal Mac McEvoy has been

asked to read. Robert Fraker has been asked to play guitar. If he is not available, perhaps we should contact Larry Spatz. Members should be at the school by 8:50 to be welcomed in at 9 a.m.

- New for 2016 is a planned field trip with the class to the Mt Greylock base lodge for lunch and a walk in the woods with an interpreter from Greylock Reservation. Jim has explored the Bradley Trail and recommends a 1 hr loop. Hike will highlight trees, history, land formation. During the hike, 5 children will follow each adult, with a final adult at the end. They will not be allowed to pass their respective adults.
- Arbor Day related gift for students will be tree rings, and walking sticks will be available for the hike.
- Paula will invite a reporter from the Berkshire Eagle to attend the event.
- Fundraising Plans 2016
 - The weekend Nov 12/13 has been reserved with Berkshire Poker. Players have requested the event be held Saturday evening. Jim Midas at Skyline has us scheduled and we have option for Sunday or Saturday eve set aside. That decision will be made later.
- Other Business
 - Tree and Forest Committee Annual Report was submitted to Town Secretary for inclusion into the town Annual Report for FY15 (published Spring 2016)
 - Jim updated volunteer time: Paula worked about an hour on the Arbor Day plans; Jim will add his own time to that.
 - Members of the Committee invited Nancy Sommers to join. She said she is interested.
 - Online Compliance Training Status: Jim will work with Nick to comply
- The next meeting will be held Monday, June 6 at 4 p.. in the Library. The meeting was adjourned at 5:20.

Respectfully submitted,
Kacy Westwood